

McFarland amendment that is pending at this point. Senator McFarland was concerned that if we institute this brand new program under LR 239, this way of restructuring higher education, that we would end up with specific campuses within the higher ed system, bypassing the Board of Regents, bringing their specific spending requests to the Legislature, performing end runs around that new body that we're going to be creating and making appropriations directly to the campuses for specific projects. And I think we all realize that would be a horrible system if that were to ever happen and we don't ever want that to happen. Yet, right here, what we have under the current system, we have a specific project on a specific campus within the university system being brought to us by way of, first of all, a bill introduced by a member and now an amendment onto the bill bypassing the university, the typical university budgeting system. I guess I'm just pointing out to you that what Senator McFarland was decrying this morning as totally irresponsible and reprehensible and something that needs to be dealt with by changing the bill is, in fact, as Senator Warner told you this morning, very much the status quo. I doubt if any structure you set up will change it. I'm just making this speech at this time to point that out and also to get Senator Schimek on her feet to say something. And I see she just pushed her light. I, in all probability, am not going to be supporting this particular amendment, I think partially because I think whatever sorts of rigor and discipline we have within our budgeting process ought to be maintained, at least as far as this particular project is concerned. I will not be supporting it but I guess I just wanted to speak to point out to you the fallaciousness maybe of the argument this morning that some new system will encourage end runs. End runs certainly don't need to be encouraged. This is a great one, and as a former end on the University of Nebraska football team, I know he was on the offensive team, but he ought to understand end runs as well as anybody and this most certainly is an end run as well as the sort of things he was talking about this morning.

SPEAKER BARRETT PRESIDING

SPEAKER BARRETT: Thank you. Senator Lamb.

SENATOR LAMB: Mr. President and members, I rise to support this appropriation. I think it's very important that agriculture keeps up in research. You know, whether we like it or not there is going to be less reliance on subsidies for agriculture in